

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAHORE 01410 140350Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W
----- 119335 /71

P R 131100Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL LAHORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1092
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

UNCLAS LAHORE 1410

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BDIS, PK
SUBJ: PAK RAILWAYS PROBLEM WITH G.E.

1. IN THE COURSE OF A CALL BY VISITING EMBASSY ISLAMABAD OFFICER ON CHAIRMAN OF PAK RAILWAYS BOARD, THE CHAIRMAN DESCRIBED A SERIOUS PROBLEM RAILWAYS WERE HAVING WITH GE LOCOMOTIVES. OUT OF THE 65 WHICH HAD BEEN SUPPLIED IN 1970, 21 WERE IN THE SHED WAITING FOR SPARE PARTS FROM GE, AND SEVERAL MORE WERE LONG OVERDUE FOR MAINTENANCE BUT COULD NOT BE RELEASED. THE CHAIRMAN SAID THAT THE RESPONSE FROM GE TO REQUESTS FOR SPARE PARTS HAD BEEN POOR. IN SOME CASES, PAKISTAN RAILWAYS HAD RECEIVED NO RESPONSE AT ALL, AND IN OTHERS THE DELIVERY DATES HAD BEEN LATE 1977 OR EARLY 1978, MUCH TOO FAR OFF TO BE SATISFACTORY.

2. CHAIRMAN SAID THAT THE RAILWAY DELEGATION HEADED BY RAILWAYS SECRETARY H.U. BEG WHICH WAS NOW IN WASHINGTON TO NEGOTIATE THE WORLD BANK RAILWAY LOAN HAD BEEN ASKED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH GE AND CHECK ON THE SPARE PARTS PROBLEM. THE OFFICER WHO WILL BE CONTACTING GE WAS RAILWAY ENGINEER MR. M. SIDDIQUE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WE BELIEVE IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT DEPARTMENT FOLLOW UP WITH GE AND IF NECESSARY WITH DELEGATION TO SEE IF GE CAN TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION. DELEGATION CAN BE REACHED THROUGH PAK EMBASSY, WASHINGTON. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, PAKISTAN RAILWAYS HAS EXTENSIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW LOCOMOTIVES IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND IS NOW EXAMINING BIDS FROM VARIOUS SUPPLIERS INCLUDING GM AND GE FOR 40
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LOCOMOTIVES. AN UNRELIABLE RECORD FOR THE POST-SALE SERVICE

WILL SERIOUSLY DAMAGE CHANCES FOR GE TO OBTAIN FURTHER
BUSINESS, FROM PAKISTAN RAILWAYS, AND COULD DAMAGE THE
REPUTATION OF AMERICAN FIRMS GENERALLY.
GAMON

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NNN

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